

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 and 27-35 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 34, and 35 are independent.

Claims 2-6 and 12 were withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 13-26 were previously cancelled. Claims 1, 7-11, and 27-35 are under active consideration. All claim amendments submitted herein are made for reasons of clarity with respect to the specification and drawings, and not for reasons related to the statutory requirements for patentability.

The specification has been amended to correct minor informalities noted therein. No new matter has been added.

The undersigned and Applicants would like to thank Examiners Joyce for the cordial and productive interview of August 10, 2005. The Examiner's helpful comments and suggestions were instrumental in preparing this response.

As discussed in the interview, independent Claim 1 recites a novel combination of structure and/or function whereby a molding system flexible shoe assembly comprises a body for supporting a load and a force redirector. Said body having an upper wearing surface configured to slideably engage a **linearly moving** complimentary surface of a supported member. Said body also having a lower mounting surface

configured to engage a complementary surface within said molding system and providing positioning and adjustment of said shoe assembly during installation. Said force redirector being disposed in said body in a plane below said upper surface. Said force redirector configured to redirect said force from a leading edge and a trailing edge of said upper surface to a central area in said body. Said force redirector also being disposed substantially perpendicular to the **linear movement of said body**.

Independent Claim 34 recites a novel combination of structure and/or function whereby a molding system flexible shoe assembly comprises a body for supporting a load and a force redirector. Said body having an upper wearing surface configured to slideably engage a complimentary surface of a **supported member moving in a linear relationship with said body**. Said force redirector comprising a pair of slots in said body forming a web having an integral bearing surface thereon. Said force redirector being disposed in said body in a plane below said upper surface and configured to redirect said force from a leading edge and a trailing edge of said upper surface to a central area in said **linearly moving body**.

Independent Claim 35 recites a novel combination of structure and/or function whereby a molding system flexible shoe assembly comprises a body for supporting a load and a

force redirector. Said body having an upper wearing surface configured to slideably engage a **linearly moving complimentary surface** of a supported member. Said force redirector being disposed in said body in a plane below said upper surface and substantially parallel to the **linear movement of said body**. Said force redirector is configured to redirect said force from a leading edge and a trailing edge of said upper surface to a central area in said body, said body including at least one fixation bore extending lengthwise through a lower support of said body.

In contrast, the art discussed in the interview, USP 2,424,028 to Haeberlein ("Haeberlien") and USP 6,170,989 to Zeidan ("Zeidan"), do not disclose a force redirector for supporting a **linearly moving body**. As shown in Fig. 7, Haeberlein configures the bearing to support a rotationally moving shaft. See Col. 5, lines 8-12:

Assuming clockwise rotation of the shaft 60 when viewing Figure 7, wedge shaped lubricant films are formed between the segment 65 and the shaft 60, as indicated by the clearance spaces 70.

Thus, Haeberlein does not disclose a support for a **linearly moving body**, but discloses a support bearing for a rotationally moving shaft.

Zeidan also discloses a support bearing for supporting a rotationally moving shaft, as shown in Fig. 7. See also the Abstract:

A hydrodynamic bearing is constructed having a modular bearing pad support system which provides flexure pivot motion about an axis parallel to the axis of rotation of the supported shaft to provide hydrodynamic performance and a rocking motion about an axis transverse to the axis of rotation of the supported shaft to provide tolerance to misalignment and bending of the shaft.

Thus, Zeidan does not support a **linearly moving body**, as claimed in the subject application.

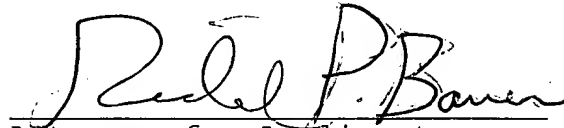
Furthermore, as discussed in the prior Amendment, both applied references actually teach away from the claimed invention. In particular, both patents disclose that the bearing structure is configured to shift the applied force away from the central area toward the leading or trailing edge in order to provide a wedge-shaped space for lubricant to enter. Therefore, the cited art fails to disclose or suggest the salient claimed features of the present invention.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt issuance of a notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507.

All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Bauer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

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